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## Decrease of the Wealth OF MISSISSIPPI UNDER RADICAL MISRULE.

HEADQUARTERS DEMOCRATIC AND CON-  
SERVATIVE STATE EXECUTIVE COM-  
MITTEE.

JACKSON, MISS., Oct. 8th, 1875.

That the present maladministration has produced the most wide spread destruction of the property and wealth of the State, and not only prevents all progress and improvement, but is surely and rapidly consuming all we have, and all that can be produced by the best energies of our people, is a truth which we all admit and feel; but it is nevertheless well to show this by actual figures, so that the extent and steady progress of this ruin may be clearly understood. Each individual citizen is conscious from his own experience that notwithstanding his best efforts, his greatest industry and his most parsimonious retrenchment, he is gradually but surely approaching bankruptcy. But he may think that others are more favored,—that the hard hand of poverty has not reached others, whom he may

consider more fortunate than himself; for this reason also, it may be well to look at official documents.

It is now ten years since the war ended, and during all that time, it is safe to say, that no people ever worked with greater zeal or energy, or lived closer, and with fewer luxuries, than the people of Mississippi; and the result is that they have not only failed to accomplish any improvement in their condition, or to make any progress or advance, but they have, under a merciless system of taxation, and a most dishonest, corrupt, and wasteful government, been growing poorer and poorer every day. This has been the result up to the present time, and during a period when our great staple, (cotton) has commanded in the markets of the world, a higher price than ever before; and the question now arises in every thoughtful mind, what are we to do in the future, when cotton has declined to its *ante bellum* price, and is every day getting lower? There must be relief, or there is certain ruin. Disguise it as we may, the people

of Mississippi are poorer after all these ten years of self-denial and hard labor than they were before. They are also on the verge of universal bankruptcy and ruin.

This has been brought about by Radical misrule, and all our lost wealth has been consumed in taxes, which are levied to pamper and fatten a worthless horde of adventurers, who have no interest in, or sympathy with, the fortunes of the people of the State.

The people of Mississippi are not drones nor idlers. They have shown their capacity to produce wealth, and to improve their fortunes; they have been energetic and economical; they have worked hard early and late; they have had no luxuries, barely the comforts of life; they possess a salubrious climate, a fertile soil, and have been engaged in raising the most profitable crops in the world. Yet the result is ruin.

Let us look at the figures:

In 1850, the total population of the State was 606,526, and the total value of the property of the State was \$228,951,130, or \$377 per head. In 1860, the total population of the State was 791,305, and the total wealth \$509,472,912. In 1866, the total wealth of the State was \$161,151,207, and the total population about the same as in 1860, and the valuation of the property per head was a little over \$200.00. In 1875 the total wealth is \$119,123,008—about \$166 per head.

This shows a large increase in population between 1850 and 1860, but a still larger increase in wealth; the increase in population being 184,879, or about 13 per cent. for the ten years; the increase in wealth being \$280,521,782, or over 120 per cent.; the valuation of property in 1860 being at the rate of \$644 to each inhabitant. In the next decade, from 1860 to 1870, four years of which were war, and six years peace, the increase in population was only 36,617—the population in 1870 being 827,922; but still there was an increase. The total wealth

of the State in 1870, as shown by the census of that year was \$209,197,345, being a loss in wealth in that decade of over \$300,000,000, or about 60 per cent. These estimates are based on census returns, not on assessments.

But as the object of this paper is to show what we have lost by Radical misgovernment, it will be as well to commence on a new basis of valuation, just after the war ended, and when its ravages had ceased, making no other use of the *ante bellum* statistics than to show the rate at which our people created wealth in time of peace, under a fair and just government. This rate of increase, as is above shown, was over 12 per cent. per annum.

There is no civilized people, certainly there is no part of the United States, not cursed by carpet-bag rule, that does not increase their wealth yearly. The increase in Mississippi between 1850 and 1860 of 12 per cent. per annum is not exceptionally high, but is below the average. The increase in Indiana between 1850 and 1860 was 16 per cent; between 1860 and 1870 it was 14 per cent. per annum. In New Jersey, between 1850 and 1860, it was 19 4/5 per cent.; a year,—between 1860 and 1870, it was 9 per cent. In Massachusetts, between 1850 and 1860, it was 4 1/2 per cent.; between 1860 and 1870, it was 19 per cent. a year. In Tennessee, between 1850 and 1860, it was 14 per cent. per annum; and between 1860 and 1870 there was even then a small increase. In Connecticut, between 1850 and 1860, the annual increase was 19 per cent.; between 1860 and 1870, it was 7 3/5 per cent. In Illinois the annual increase, between 1850 and 1860, was 50 per cent.; between 1860 and 1870 it was 14 per cent. In Georgia, between 1850 and 1860, it was 9 per cent. per annum. In New York, between 1850 and 1860 it was 7 per cent. each year; between 1860 and 1870 it was 54 per cent. a year. In Alabama, between 1850 and 1860, it was about 11 per cent. In the whole of the United States, the increase in wealth, between 1850 and 1860, was over 13 per cent. per annum; between 1860 and



1870, notwithstanding the great losses sustained by the Southern States from the war, it was nearly 9 per cent. - So it appears that the property in Mississippi, under good government, increased between 1850 and 1860, in about the same ratio, as the average of the whole Union.

But to remove all cavil, we will say, that the increase would, under a fair government in time of peace, be 10 per cent. per annum, and make our calculation accordingly.

Commencing, as before stated, on the basis of the assessment of 1866, the year after the war closed, we will see how the case stands. Have we lost or gained by these nine years of labor and toil? In 1866, the land assessment, excluding school land, amounted to \$115,321,299. There was no assessment of all personalty till 1870, and none accessible to me till 1871. Though the years subsequent to 1871 show a steady decrease in the value of personalty, I will assume there was no decrease before that time, and that the personalty in 1866 was worth as much as it was in 1871, viz: \$45,829,908. This added to the realty, makes \$161,151,207, as the total wealth of the State in 1866.

In 1871 the total assessment of realty and personalty was \$150,000,000, showing a loss in five years of \$11,151,207, or about \$2,000,000 for each year. These were years of peace, and the price of cotton, during this entire period, was double its *ante bellum* value, when our increase of wealth was twelve per cent per annum. There is no reason, but bad government, and high taxes, why this increase should not have been kept up. But put the increase at 10 per cent., and the wealth of the State should have been in 1871, \$241,726,807, instead of what it was, viz: \$150,000,000; showing a loss, by bad government, of \$91,726,807, in five years, or over \$18,000,000 a year.

The assessment of realty in 1871, was \$104,136,291, and there was no new assessment till 1875, and so we cannot show the annual decrease in the value of realty, but we can take the four years together.

The assessment rolls for the year 1875 have not all been returned; but we have

the rolls of fifty counties, situated in all parts of the State, and the returns from these counties show a decrease of 18 per cent. in the land assessment for four years. The same rate of decrease in the land assessment in the remaining counties would make the land assessment amount this year (1875) to \$85,401,759, or a loss in four years of \$18,734,759. Add to this the loss in land assessment between 1866 and 1871, as follows:

Assessment of 1866.....	\$115,321,299
Assessment of 1871.....	104,136,291
	<hr/>
	\$ 11,185,008

makes a total loss in land value of \$29,919,540 in four years.

The loss in value of personalty is still more marked, and as the assessment was made each year after 1871, we can show the annual decrease, and that it was steady and never varying:

Assessment of personalty, 1871.....	\$45,829,908
Assessment of personalty, 1872..	45,224,440
Loss in one year.....	605,468
Personalty assessment of 1873 ..	44,710,345
Loss as compared with 1872. ....	514,095
Personalty assessment of 1874....	44,333,222
Loss as compared with 1873.....	377,123

In 1875, we have assessment rolls of personalty for forty-four counties, showing a total loss in these counties of \$6,838,565, or 24 per cent., making assessments in all about \$33,721,249. Loss in one year \$10,661,973, or a total loss in four years of \$12,108,659; over one-fourth of our personal wealth in four years.

Add now the total loss of land and personalty together:

Land.....	\$29,919,540
Personalty.....	12,108,659

Making grand total.....\$42,028,199

But this is not the real loss, great as it is. We have lost all we have made in these nine years, in addition. This, a before shown, would have been undernood government, 12 per cent. per annum, but we will put it at 10 per cent., so as to be perfectly safe. This, as wealth would be as follows:

Land assessment in 1866, \$115,321,299.

Personal assessment in 1866, assumed

Assessment of 1875 returned

to be as great as in 1871,—\$45,829,908.

Total wealth in 1866—\$161,151,207.

Add 90 per cent., or 10 per cent. for each of nine years, for increase, and we have \$145,036,086, for the increase—making what our wealth should be in 1875 \$306,187,293. Instead of this it is only as follows:

Land assessment in 1875—\$85,401,759.

Personalty—\$33,721,249.

Total—\$119,123,008.

Which deducted from what it should be, as shown above, leaves \$187,069,285, representing the cost in money to the people of the State, of Radical misrule, besides the enormous taxation which we have paid.

The ten years which have elapsed since the war, though in time of profound peace, have been more devastating to the people than war. The United States, as a whole, increased their wealth nine per cent. annually, during the last decade, yet we have constantly retrograded.

France recovered all her lost wealth in five years, after the most devastating of all wars. We, at the end of ten years, are as if war had never ceased.

Lord Macaulay, (History of England, Vol. 1, Chap. 3,) in contemplating and commenting on the improved condition of England after long years of misrule and intestine commotions, makes use of the following language:

“In every experimental science there is a tendency toward perfection. In every human being there is a wish to ameliorate his own condition. These two principles have often sufficed, even when counteracted by great public calamities, and by bad institutions, to carry civilization rapidly forward. No ordinary misfortune, no ordinary misgovernment, will do so much to make a nation wretched, as the constant progress of physical knowledge, and the constant effort of every man to better his condition, will do to make a nation prosperous. It has often been found that profuse expenditure, heavy taxation, absurd commercial restrictions, corrupt tribunals, disastrous wars, seditions, persecutions, conflagrations and inundations, have not been able to destroy capital as fast as the exer-

tions of private citizens have been able to create it.”

He further says that the national wealth of England, “in spite of battles, sieges, and confiscations, was greater on the day of the Restoration, than on the day when the *Long Parliament* met; that in spite of maladministration, of extravagance, of public bankruptcy, of two costly and unsuccessful wars, of pestilence and fire, it was greater on the day of the death of Charles the Second, than on the day of his Restoration.” This is the great lesson taught by history.—constant progress in wealth and civilization over all ordinary obstacles. England and all other States have triumphed over all obstacles in their march to wealth. Mississippi, in time of profound peace, without battles, sieges, confiscations, without conflagrations, inundations, pestilence or fire, and with only maladministration and wasteful extravagance, has been constantly retrograding.

But a still more marked evidence of our decay will be found in the number of acres of land forfeited for taxes. In 1866 the value of land forfeited for taxes was \$607,632, being about one-half of one per cent. on the value of land in the State. In 1875 the number of acres forfeited is about 6,500,000, or over 27 per cent. of the value of all the land in the State. In 6,500,000 acres there is a little over 10,000 square miles, more than one-fifth of the total area of the State, or about fourteen average counties.

We have become so used here to see evidences of decay and destruction of wealth, that we do not readily take in the full import of these enormous figures.

The land forfeited in Mississippi for taxes, and which was once private property, constitutes a larger area, by two thousand square miles, than the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined; larger than Massachusetts and Delaware combined; larger by near 1,700 square miles than New Jersey; larger than New Hampshire, and nearly as large as Maryland.

Under a good government all these lands would be held by private owners,



and would be supporting a thriving population.

This year there will be a large increase in the area of land forfeited. The taxes which ought to be collected from these lands must be collected from the remainder. Thus every year the taxes will be increased, and there will be less and less property to pay them. Can we stand this? Is Mississippi alone, of all the United States, to remain under this bondage to Radical misrule and corruption? We have a fair chance to relieve ourselves now. If we let the opportunity pass, another may never come.

J. Z. GEORGE,  
Chairman.

### The Appointment of Election Supervisors.

HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
DEMOCRATIC-CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.  
Jackson, Miss., Oct. 8, 1875.

*To the Democrats and Conservatives of Mississippi:*

A recent notice from Judge R. A. Hill, in reference to the appointment of Supervisors of Election, renders it necessary for me to give you some instructions in reference to that matter.

By an Act of Congress (Revision of 1875, Title xxvi), any ten citizens residing in a county in a Congressional District may apply to the United States Judge for the appointment of supervisors of any Congressional election.

I suppose that an application will be made to Judge Hill for the appointment of such supervisors in each Congressional District. The law requires that two supervisors shall be appointed (when proper application is made) at each election precinct. They are required to be of different political parties, and able to read and write the English language, and residents of the county. I have no doubt Judge Hill desires to appoint

proper persons in all cases, when he may be called upon to act, and as he must necessarily rely upon the advice of others as to who shall be appointed, it will become necessary for the Democrats and Conservatives to take such action as will secure the placing before Judge Hill of the names of suitable persons to be appointed.

I know of no better way to accomplish this end than for the Chairman of the Democratic and Conservative Club, at the county seat of each county, to forward to me at once the names of at least two (2) intelligent and responsible citizens of his county, for each precinct therein, belonging to the Democratic and Conservative party, from whom the judge may select one for each precinct. That is, where there are (5) five precincts in a county, let the names of at least ten (10) Conservatives and Democrats be at once forwarded to me, two from each precinct, so that (5) five of the number may be selected.

If the Chairman of the Democratic and Conservative Committee can agree with the Chairman of the Republican Committee upon the proper number for each county, one for each party, for each precinct, it would be preferable. If that be done, let the names so agreed on be forwarded, indicating which party each belongs to.

In forwarding names, the precinct at which each is desired to be appointed should be indicated.

I ask for prompt action in this matter, and that the names of no one will be recommended or forwarded who is not in every respect a trustworthy citizen.

J. Z. GEORGE,  
Chrm. D. and C. Ex. Com.

## CIRCULAR.

HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
 DEMOCRATIC-CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
 OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
 JACKSON, MISS., OCT. 8, 1875.

I have received so many inquiries in relation to naturalization that it is deemed best to answer all in this circular.

Any alien may be naturalized in the following manner:

1. He shall have first declared his intention to become a citizen, in due form, before a Circuit or District Court of the United States, or a Court of record of a State having common law jurisdiction. If this has been done two years, the alien may then apply for naturalization. If, however, the alien was a minor when he arrived in the United States, and has resided here for three years before his majority, he may be naturalized without having declared his intention as aforesaid, two years before application. He may make the declaration when he is naturalized—but he still must have resided before naturalization, five years in the United States. And any alien over twenty-one years of age may be naturalized who has enlisted in the U. S. Army, and has been honorably discharged and has been a resident of the United States one year.

2. Before naturalization, except in case of a discharged soldier, the alien must have resided in the United States five years, and in the State where he is naturalized, one year.

3. The applicant for naturalization in Mississippi, must go before a Circuit Court of the State (*not the Chancery*), and in term time be naturalized. He need not go to the Circuit Court of the county where he resides, but to any Circuit Court in the State.

4. When he goes to the Court to be naturalized, he must show to the Court:

1st—That he has declared his intention to become a citizen at least two years before (except in cases of minors and discharged soldiers, as before explained). This can be done by producing the certificate given at the time by the officer before whom the declaration was made,

and if it has been lost, he can prove by his own oath its loss, or destruction.

2d—He must show to the Court that he has resided in the United States at least five years, and in the State one year, and that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

But in no case can the residence required be proven by the oath of the applicant.

3d—The children of aliens who have been duly naturalized are citizens, by the act of naturalizing the father; and if an alien has declared his intention to become a citizen, and has died before naturalization, his widow and children may become citizens by taking the naturalizing oath.

The oath required for naturalization is as follows:

"I solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to —, (Prince or King, or Empress of —, naming the country of which the applicant is a native), of whom I was before a subject."

When all this is done, the proceedings should be entered on the record, and the Court should enter up a judgment, declaring that the applicant is thereby, having complied with the law, admitted to the rights and privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States, and adjudged and declared to be a citizen of the same.

J. Z. GEORGE.

THE election day is approaching rapidly. You have no time to lose. Let every Democrat do his whole duty from now until the election.

IF there is a Democrat who is not doing his duty, let him reflect upon the infamies and oppressions that will come to us all from two more years of Radical rule.



THE CLARION.]  
FOR THE CANVASS.

The Radical Party.—Its Extravagance and Violated Pledges.

The Convention of August, 1873, which nominated Ames for Governor, promised to reform the abuses which it had practiced, and registered a solemn pledge to "retrench expenditures" and practice "rigid economy." We can best see how that pledge has been redeemed, by referring to the official reports :

[DOCUMENT B]

Disbursements for fiscal year 1874, from the 1st day of January, 1874 to the 31st day of December, 1874, inclusive by warrant.

Legislative.....	\$133,519 91
Judiciary.....	300 854 10
Executive.....	54,909 50
Appropriations.....	15,376 03
State Library.....	3,447 03
Commissions for assessing.....	29,388 13
Penitentiary.....	162,712 84
Public printing.....	75,238 36
Capitol expenses.....	600 00
Capitol repairs.....	3,600 00
University of Mississippi.....	50,000 00
Recording tax titles.....	22 75
Common School Fund.....	20,266 62
Lunatic Asylum.....	93,750 00
Executive Contingent Fund.....	10,262 53
Auditor's Contingent Fund.....	2,763 56
Chickasaw School Fund interest.....	77,120 02
Deaf and Dumb Asylum.....	15,000 00
Institution for the Blind.....	10,000 00
Alcorn University.....	50,000 00
Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture.....	9 533 32
Expense and postage.....	1,440 99

To the foregoing are added in the report a series of other items, the whole aggregating the enormous sum of ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN DOLLARS.

By the foregoing it will be seen that for 1874, the expenditures on account of the Legislative department were 133,519 91.—Now compare this item with the expenses of the Legislature on former years :

1850 (when an extra session was held).....	\$63,516
1854.....	43,135
1857.....	32,766
1861 (when an extra session was held).....	56,901

An average of \$50,000. But these sessions were held biennially. Therefore the annual average was \$25,000 against \$132,000 under Radical rule. The reader will be curious to know how all this money, on account of the Legislative department in 1874, was made way with. Here are the items as set forth in the official report above quoted :

Statement of Expenditures on account Legislative Department for year 1874.

Per diem of members of Legislature.....	\$85,056 00
Mileage of members of Legislature.....	17,512 60
	<hr/>
	\$102,568 60
Per diem of clerks.....	\$13,847 00
Per diem of postmasters.....	628 00
Per diem of sergeant-at-arms and assist's.....	1,709 00
Per diem of door keepers.....	1,202 00
Per diem of pages.....	2,484 00
Per diem of messengers.....	756 00
Per diem of porters.....	2,712 00
Per diem of cloak-keepers.....	516 00
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	23,844 00
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	\$126,412 60

Jackson Gas Light Company, for gas, coal and light-wood.....	1,056 98
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APPROPRIATIONS.

Geo. B. Pease, sergeant at-arms of the House of Representatives, for contingent expenses, Act approved March 19, 1874.....	3,000 00
W. B. Redmond, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, for contingent expenses, approved March 30, 1874.....	2,274 56
W. Q. Lowd, sergeant-at-arms, Senate, special session 1873, for contingent expenses, approved April 6, 1874.....	470 77
L. Tuttle, jr., sergeant-at-arms, House Representatives, special session 1873, for contingent expenses, Act approved November.....	

1, 1873 .....	277 00
Shackelford investigating committee.....	28 00

6 050 33

Total ..... \$133,519 91

It is said that the corruption at Washington is so reeking that "the man in the moon holds his nose when he goes over it." A similar effect is produced by looking over the above items. "Per diem of closet keepers" for the ménage-rie \$546,00 for example.

Under honest rule the whole clerical service of the Legislature was performed for \$2,800—\$1,600 for the Clerk of the House, and \$1,200 for the Secretary of the Senate. Now the cost of this service is \$13,847. Until Radical rule began the whole cost of sergeants-at-arms, door-keepers, pages, etc., was \$600 per session. Now it is \$3,000—to say nothing of the sweet smelling item above mentioned.

For the Judiciary department in 1874, \$300,855 were expended. Now compare this with a series of years prior to the war :

1851.....	74,446
1855.....	99,527
1857.....	114,984

The highest expenditure for the judiciary department during any year under citizens' rule was in 1859, and then the amount was only \$147,105. The contrast in the cost of the Executive Department, is still more striking—as follows :

852.....	\$ 8,853
854.....	8,008
858.....	11,226
And from '65 to May '66 (after the war).....	10,000

Under the first year of Ames, the expenditures on account of the Executive Department as seen above, amounted to \$54,999. These are but examples of the wholesale system of public plundering which has been carried on under the regime of the carpet-bagger; and their contrast with the rule of honesty and economy.

### Pardoned Convicts Vote or Register

Judge E. S. Fisher has recently decided this question in a case where a negro in DeSoto county was refused registry because he had been convicted for grand larceny, although pardoned before the end of his sentence. He applied for a writ of mandamus before Judge Fisher. Regarding the Judge's opinion, the *Herando Press* and *Times* says :

"Judge Fisher delivered an oral opinion, in which, after reciting the provisions of the constitution, and of the several statutes on the subject, by the terms of which disfranchisement is made the consequence of conviction of a penitentiary offence, he considered the effect of a pardon in restoring eligibility. He held that while at common law a pardon operated as a complete defence, and a restoration of the convict to all his common law rights, yet that it could not have the effect of giving to a party a right expressly denied to him by statute. That the statutes of the States having expressly declared that no convicted person could register, it was not within the power of the Governor to render this statute nugatory by the exercise of the pardoning power. In other words, that the absence of conviction was one of the essential qualifications of an elector in this State, which could not be supplied by any act of the Executive.

This important decision settles the question of the right to vote of quite a number of active Radical politicians in this county.

THERE is no help but that we find within ourselves. We can get our rights if we put our shoulders to the wheel. Let the men of Mississippi do their duty. Every man is expected to stand to his post. Indifference, lukewarmness, half-heartedness constitute no force and produce no fruits. Be active, vigilant, unfaltering, in this crisis of the battle. Take no step backward. The prize is within reach. Onward!